

INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF

10 Mar 2000

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program - Korea

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities available in Korea to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. **FACTS:**

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour Length: 12 – 30 months. The length of the tour will vary according to the language ability of the FAO. Some FAOs will attend basic Korean language training at DLI prior to ICT. The guidelines are as follows:

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Skill Level (R/L)</u>	<u>Recommended Training</u>	<u>Tour Length</u>
A	3/3	1 Qtr. Sogang/Travel/ROKA CSC	12-18 Mo.
B	2+/2+	2-3 Qtrs. Sogang/Travel/ROKA CSC	15-21 Mo.
C	1+/1+ and 2/2	4 Qtrs. Sogang/Travel/ROKA CSC	18-24 Mo.
D	1/1	5 Qtrs. Sogang/Travel/ROKA CSC	21-27 Mo.
E	Less than 1/1	6 Qtrs. Sogang/Travel/ROKA CSC	24-30 Mo.

Normal Arrival/Departure Dates: Officers should arrive two to four weeks prior to the beginning of a term at Sogang University. Terms begin in the first week of January, April, July, and October. Officers will depart based on the completion date of their program.

(2) Program Description: Up to six FAOs conduct ICT in Seoul annually. The program's components are as follows:

* Language Training at Sogang University lasts 3-18 months, depending on the level of proficiency upon arrival. There are four terms per year. Training consists of small group instruction (student to teacher ratio of 10-14:1) conducted from 0900 to 1300, Monday through Friday. Instruction is conducted over seven ability levels and weekly instruction consists of five hours of writing, five hours of listening, and 10 hours of speaking/reading. Additionally, students receive three hours of individual tutoring each week.

* Regional and in-country travel is conducted during term breaks, holidays and weekends. Travel is conducted based on availability of funds and travel priorities set by the ARMA. Recommended regional travel priority is Japan, China and East Russia. The amount of regional travel outside of NE Asia depends on availability of travel funds.

* Attendance at the Korean Army Command and Staff College at Taejon. ROKA CSC is a six- or twelve-month course with varying start dates. Classes are conducted Monday through Friday and a half day on Saturday.

(3) Prerequisites - CPT/MAJ; branch immaterial.

b. Transportation: Each FAO is authorized to ship one POV and this is recommended. Before shipping a large vehicle like a full-size truck/SUV/van, consider the fact that some roads in Korea are narrow and parking space is usually made for normal-sized Korean vehicles. Driving in Korea is different from driving in the US. Generally speaking, Korean drivers are more aggressive and rarely drive defensively. For more advice about vehicles and driving in Korea, incoming FAOs should ask their sponsors. FAOs have two vehicles for in-country travel and official business. They are Government property for official use only. They are *not* a substitute for personal transportation.

c. Household goods. FAOs are normally authorized full JFTR. Incoming FAOs should coordinate with resident FAOs for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage. Keep in mind that apartments in Korea are smaller than those in the U.S. Storage space is extremely limited.

d. Housing:

(1) Seoul: Although officers are command sponsored, the DAO directs that FAOs live on the economy, even when housing is available on Yongsan Post. Seoul is a major, modern metropolitan area with abundant suitable housing. However, these apartments have limited square footage. FAOs receive OHA and COLA.

(2) Taejon: At Taejon, one of the fastest-growing modern metropolitan areas in Korea, the ROKA CSC provides government quarters (substandard) at no cost. Units are new (built in Jan 96) and consists of two to three small bedrooms (9X9 to 12X12), a small kitchen, living room and bathroom. Due to the lack of support facilities, some dependents choose to remain in Seoul and the FAO visits during the weekend.

e. Unit of Assignment:: FAOs will be assigned to HHC, EUSA, Seoul, Korea and attached to USDAO, American Embassy, Seoul, Korea. All personnel and finance actions are conducted thru EUSA, while all other ICT-related actions are

conducted thru the DAO. ICT FAOs fall under the jurisdiction of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA).

f. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical: FAOs and dependents are authorized full medical and dental care through the 121st Hospital on Yongsan South Post. While at Taejon, a clinic at the ROKA CGSC provides minor medical support while TRICARE covers emergency medical needs. Routine medical support is still provided at 121st.

(2) Dependent Schooling: DoDDS schools are available for all levels, K-12, on Yongsan South Post. Yongsan offers college courses leading to bachelors/masters degree. No dependent schooling is available in Taejon.

(3) PX/Commissary: Various AAFES PX and commissary outlets are located in Seoul. Officers have use of all USFK facilities in Korea. No USFK facilities are located in Taejon.

(4) APO: Full service APO is available at the Embassy and Yongsan Post.

(5) Language Instruction Availability: Various sources are available in Seoul and Taejon in addition to Sogang University training. Outside of formal training, Korea provides limitless language training opportunities.

g. Rating Chain:

Rater: AARMA

Senior Rater: DATT/ARMA

h. FAOs in Training:

MAJ Davis, Thomas	9912-0006
CPT Hauser, Thomas	9807-0007
CPT Hamilton, Burke	9909-0109
CPT Hynes, Robert	9901-0108
CPT Lee, Seungjik	9905-0008
CPT(P) Lee, Seung Joon	9907-0106
CPT Minnich, James	9906-0106
CPT Panciera, Michael	9901-0006
CPT Wiggins, Anthony	9902-0011

FAOs Programmed:

CPT Brannen, Michael	ETA 0003
CPT Cho, June	ETA 0006
CPT Zemitis, Darrell	ETA 0006
CPT Vido, Paul	ETA 0009

i. Address:

(1) Mail: USDAO-FAO, U.S Embassy, Unit #15550, APO AP 96205-0001

(2) Message: USDAO SEOUL KOR

j. Phone/FAX: CML: 011-82-2-397-4647/4187
DSN: 721-4647/4187

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- a. Bring AOC, CAS3, and CGSC materials.
- b. Officers should arrive with an updated TS-SCI clearance.

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